

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-26 are pending, with Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 11, 14, 17, 19, 22, 23, 25, and 26 amended by the present amendment.

In the Official Action of July 15, 2003, Claims 1, 2, 4, 10, 11-16, 19-21, 25, and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Ludwig et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,343,314, hereinafter "Ludwig"); and Claims 3, 5-9, 17, 18, and 22-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ludwig in view of Kumar et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,342,996, hereinafter "Kumar").

Independent Claims 1, 11, 19, and 25 are amended to more clearly describe distinctly claimed Applicant's invention, and as suggested in the last paragraph of page 10 of the Official Action of July 15, 2003. Support for this amendment is found in Applicant's originally filed specification.¹ No new matter is added.

Briefly recapitulating, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to:

A method of displaying an electronic file to a primary user having a primary workstation, said primary workstation coupled to a global computer network, and at least one secondary viewer at a remote location, comprising:

accessing a first file and displaying contents of said first file on said primary workstation;

displaying said contents of said first file at said remote location on a secondary workstation, said secondary workstation coupled to said global computer network;

accessing a second file, said second file comprising information relating to said first file;

displaying first and second contents of said second file on said primary workstation as a transparent overlay to said displayed contents of said first file; and

displaying said second contents of said second file on said secondary workstation while not displaying said first contents of said second file on said secondary workstation.

¹ Specification, page 2, lines 31-33.

Independent Claims 11, 19, and 25 are directed to alternative embodiments of Applicants' invention, each reciting features relating restrictively displaying files.

Ludwig describes an embodiment where an expert illustrates his advice on a videoconference screen by creating (using his own modeling software) and sharing a new graphical image 220 (FIG. 37) with a field representative and his client. Either party to the share can annotate the expert's image using drawing tools 221 (and the TEXT button, which permits typed characters to be displayed) provided within Share window 211, or "regrab" a modified version of the original image (by using the REGRAB button), or remove all such annotations (by using the CLEAR button of Share window 211), or "grab" a new image to share (by clicking on the GRAB button of Share window 211 and selecting that new image from the screen).²

As acknowledged in the Official Action of July 15, 2003, Ludwig fails to disclose or suggest the use of a transparent overlay.³ In particular, Ludwig fails to disclose or suggest displaying second contents of a second file or a secondary workstation while not displaying first contents of the second file on the secondary workstation.

Applicants have considered Kumar and submit Kumar does not cure the deficiencies of Ludwig. As none of the applied references disclose all features recited in Applicant's independent claims, Applicants submit that the claimed invention is patentably distinct.

² Ludwig, column 36, line 61 – column 37, line 12.

³ Official Action page 10.

Accordingly, in view of the present amendment and in light of the previous discussion, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request an early and favorable action to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

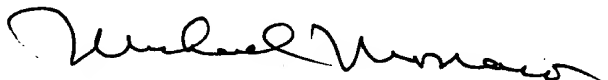
OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413-2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

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Bradley D. Lytle
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 40,073

Michael E. Monaco
Registration No. 52,041